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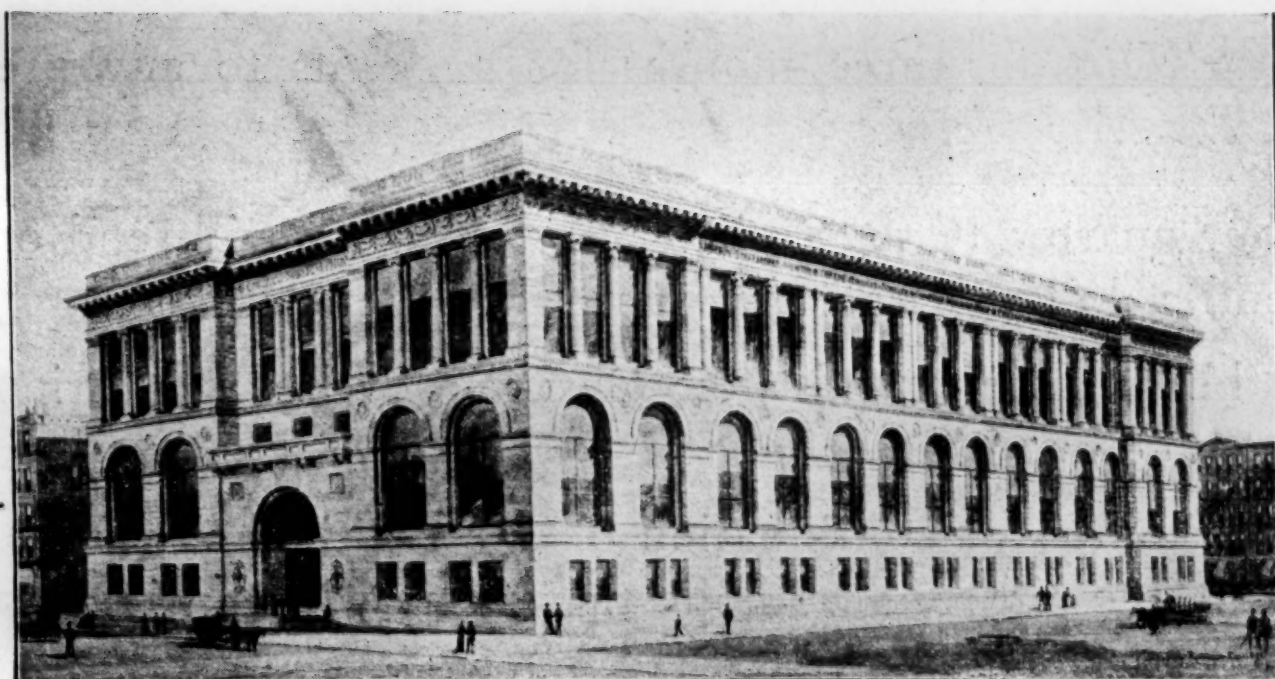
THE NEW UNITY

For Good Citizenship, Good Literature; and Freedom, Fellowship and Character in Religion.

OLD SERIES, VOL. 40.

CHICAGO, DECEMBER 2, 1897.

NEW SERIES, VOL. 5



THE NEW BUILDING OF THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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THE NEW UNITY

VOLUME V.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1897.

NUMBER 40



TO unite in a larger fellowship and co-operation, such existing societies and liberal elements as are in sympathy with the movement toward undogmatic religion, to foster and encourage the organization of non-sectarian churches and kindred societies on the basis of absolute mental liberty; to secure a closer and more helpful association of all these in the thought and

work of the world under the great law and life of love; to develop the church of humanity, democratic in organization, progressive in spirit, aiming at the development of pure and high character, hospitable to all forms of thought, cherishing the spiritual traditions and experiences of the past, but keeping itself open to all new light and the higher developments of the future.

—From Articles of Incorporation of the American Congress of Liberal Religious Societies.

Editorial.

*I will make thee to love literature thy mother;
I will make its beauty pass before thee.*

TUANUSE-KHARTHAR.

The publishers and the editors of THE NEW UNITY are receiving congratulations and thanks from all quarters over the growing attractiveness of this paper, particularly the great enjoyment received from the full reports of the Nashville sessions, which are to continue for several more issues. We cannot expect our readers to realize at what expense of money and strain of brain this is being accomplished. They can, if they stop to count the pages, see how we have far outreached our own limits in order to do this. Do those who appreciate the efforts of publisher and editor, always rest complacently in the thought that their full duty is done when they have paid their own subscription, deeming themselves fortunate if they have been able to avail themselves of reduced rates? Reader, have you a duty as well as a privilege, and a pleasure here? You delight in the thought of co-operation and combination in the interest of the higher things of life. Can you not form a combination here? We need twenty-five hundred more subscribers in order to put THE NEW UNITY where the editor will have no anxiety except for the editorial work, and the publisher need look to no other source than the revenue of the paper itself to keep the thing going. Once more our hopeful and energetic and generous

publisher gives you a chance to help. For twenty-five cents you can make a CHRISTMAS GIFT OF THREE MONTHS OF THE NEW UNITY to your intelligent, inquiring, and isolated friends; some of them at the end of three months will be likely to become a subscriber. For one dollar you can make four CHRISTMAS PRESENTS. If but twenty-five hundred readers of THE NEW UNITY would invest each this one dollar in four trial subscriptions, and out of every four one became a permanent subscriber, the thing would be done. Reader, do you think the plea of hard times justifies a failure to realize this? You are going to spend more than this dollar upon your friends. It is a question of thoughtful and sympathetic discrimination. Give where it will do most good. Give what will carry most cheer.

You who are far away from the city of Chicago may think that here in Chicago everything goes easy, that you need take no anxiety for the work here. "Has not THE NEW UNITY kept steadily on its course for twenty years, and will it not continue to do so? We will attend to our own affairs and worry over our own needs, for there are many things we need for ourselves and for our comfort. 'Charity begins at home.'" Very well, where is home! And suppose this is not charity. Is it charity when you put a barrel of flour in your own pantry? Is it charity when you furnish your body with adequate and decent clothing? How about mind food and soul clothes?

THE NEW UNITY begs for nothing. It asks no alms. If it does not deserve your co-operation and has not prior claims to many things which do take your money and time, do not burden yourselves with any loving anxieties or a fragment of attention and love. But if you do wish to help, choose carefully your four new subscribers. Use the coin cards advertised elsewhere, samples of which will be sent you. Send for more if you can use them. Put in your quarter, fill out the blank, then when each has done his or her duty—you wait, and we will work on—by the beginning of the next volume, March 1st, we may be able to report the twenty-five hundred increase in our subscription list. The editor-in-chief gladly sends this greeting in co-operation with the generous enterprise of the publisher.

A loyal friend and careful reader of THE NEW UNITY writes: "I have just finished reading Prof. Schmidt's 'Biblical Criticism and Theological Belief.' I thought that many of the other Nashville papers could not be surpassed, but this is up to the best of them, and the matter most timely; such deep words of wisdom, such toleration, such scientific and modern spirit should be put into tract form and widely circulated. I do want to help in this work." Are there others who would like to help?

The official announcement has been made that Rev. George Batchelor, the Secretary of the American Unitarian Association is about to lay down that task and assume the editorial control of the *Christian Register*, which with the beginning of the new year, is to assume a new dress, and with the help of a new fund, it will undertake to fill more adequately than ever before the advocacy of Unitarianism and the organ of the Unitarian denomination. THE NEW UNITY will await with interest the developments and will rejoice in its growth. However manipulated, the *Register*, in the future, as in the past, will have a double mission and a double message: one to the limited household of those who call themselves "Unitarian" and who, by the word, are set apart as one section of the Christian Church; the other to the free thinking and out-reaching children of men to whom the boundaries of sect are unimportant, and the connotations of Christianity and Christian too small to represent their religious sympathies, too narrow in their widest interpretations to represent the whole field of truth, the limitless bounty of God, the inclusive family of man for which they desire to work.

Our many contributors must have already noticed that in undertaking to print in full the utterances of the Nashville Congress, our space has been taxed to its utmost. The interest in the matter thus printed warrants the preoccupation of space, but it leaves in the editorial drawer an accumulation of matter accepted and acceptable, which must bide its time. We crave the patience of our contributors and bespeak the interest of our readers in that which is to appear in our columns, as well as in that which does appear.

While the editorial force of THE NEW UNITY was at the Nashville Congress the Baptists were holding a most interesting Congress in Chicago, at which there was a great amount of rationalistic thought and open fellowship advocated. One of the Baptist professors of the University of Chicago argued that the words of Paul occupied an inferior plane to those of Jesus. Dr. Gifford, of Buffalo, urged that immersion should not be a prerequisite to the Lord's Supper. Rev. R. T. Jones urged the removing of

all conditions of membership in the Baptist church and the Baptist pulpit, save an "inward experience of God."

A critical reader of THE NEW UNITY suspected that the editor had been imposed upon when he attributed the frontispiece in the issue of November 18th, to a Heathen Roman. This reader surmised that "it was written by a modern heathen within the last twenty years." Through the kindness of a University friend and professor we have been able to follow the extract to its source. The passage is a translation from a part of the Eighth Dissertation of Maximus Tyrius, a native of Tyre, but a resident of Rome, probably in the time of Marcus Aurelius. The original text of the Dissertation may be found in the library of the University of Chicago, and doubtless in any good library of Greek and Roman literature. The translation used in THE NEW UNITY was taken from the "Age of Antonines," a book written by W. W. Capes, of Oxford, and published by Longmans, Green & Co., London and New York.

Last week we referred to the Methodist Congress then in session at Pittsburg, Pa. The following telegrams will explain themselves, and will be interpreted by our readers as another indication of the amelioration of dogma and the advancement of fellowship:

CHICAGO, Ill., November 22, 1897.

BISHOP J. H. VINCENT, Methodist Church Congress, Pittsburg, Pa.: Liberal Congress of Religion sends fraternal greetings to your congress. Ours is the common work of sanctifying science, literature, and art to the service of religion, and making religious sympathies coextensive with the divine realities.

JENKIN LLOYD JONES, General Secretary.

EAST LIBERTY, Pa, November 24, 1897.

REV. JENKIN LLOYD JONES: As humble seekers for truth we accept your fraternal greeting and wish you success in the attainment of truth.

J. H. VINCENT.

The following words of cheer from a private letter deserve wider reading, and we are glad to give it editorial space:

The worst thing that can befall one, if he cares for the good opinion of men in the long run and for a higher life beyond the curtain, is to be presently popular. I happened to be reading something this morning about John Brown's trial and execution. If ever there was a man "low down in the world" it was John Brown the day he died. Connected with his trial and execution were a score of very popular, able, well-known men. I doubt if nine-tenths of the people living in this country to-day can name more than one of these men, and there are very few people who do not know to-day of John Brown, and then somewhere where it is good to be his "soul goes marching on." Thus it is for those who have chosen to stand with the minority, to wage a losing battle, and to champion unpopular causes.

Swami Vivikananda, who has given so much offense by his sharp criticism of American Christians and Christianity, seems to wield a two-edged sword. The *Indian Mirror* reports him as saying at Madras to the native Hindus:

Compared to many other races, I must tell you in plain words, we are weak, very weak. First of all is our physical weakness. That physical weakness is the cause at least of one-third of our miseries. We are lazy; we cannot work; we cannot combine; we do not love each other; we are immensely selfish; we are what the women of Europe are; not three of us can come together without hating each other, without being jealous of each other. That is the state in which we are, hopelessly disorganized mobs, immensely selfish; fighting each other for centuries, whether a certain mark is to be put this way or a certain that way; writing volumes and volumes upon such momentous questions as whether the looks of a man spoil my food or not. These we have been doing for the last few centuries. We cannot expect anything more except what we have just now of a race whose whole brain energy has been occupied in such wonderfully beautiful problems and researches! And we are not ashamed. Ay, sometimes we are; but we cannot do what we think. Think we many things and never do; till, parrot-like, thinking has become a habit and never doing. . . . We have lost faith. Would you believe me, we have less faith than the English men and women, thousand times less faith! These are plain words, but I say them; cannot help it.

In coming to our readers with this annual book number of THE NEW UNITY we come with a plea for the intellectual life. We send this paper out as a call to the joys of thought, the luxury of reading, the blessed companionship of books. It is greatly to be feared that the great enterprise of our magazines and newspapers and the economic co-operation in the higher realms expressed in libraries will have a tendency to reduce the number of individual friendships established between the soul and the few good books that are indispensable. No magazine and no library facilities will take the place of the book owned, read, and re-read, a book with accumulating associations. One of the most subtle and pure charms of life is missed by him who never buys a book for his own and others' use, even though he be a great reader. Books are the most economic of luxuries, and there is scarcely justification for any rightly ordered life being wholly stranger to this pleasure. The man or woman who "never has money to buy a book" probably has violated the perspective of life. Many a woman sighs because she cannot buy a dollar-and-a-half book, while she carries on her head jauntily, a ten-dollar hat, fearfully and wonderfully made, an investment that by any true canon of art adds neither to the beauty of herself nor the world, and contributes little to the comfort of herself or her neighbors. Many a young man goes habitually without a good dictionary, or even a good working edition of the Bible, who is scrupulous about his "patent leathers" and carries an enormous stock of neckties. To all our readers we would say, buy a book once in a while, but beware lest you buy a second-rate book, when a first-rate book comes as cheap, and will much more effectually enrich the life.

Our Book Table.

This annual book number offers an occasion for a literary house-cleaning and gives opportunity for us

to speak of such recent books as have been left upon the editorial table. We point with pride to the work done by the reviewing corps of THE NEW UNITY and congratulate both publishers and readers that so many of the books of the year have passed under the appreciative and critical eyes of John W. Chadwick, E. P. Powell, Profs. F. R. Freeman, F. A. Christie, Oscar L. Triggs, Frederic Starr and others. On behalf of both publisher and reader, we thank these busy men who have turned aside from their other work for our benefit, giving to us so generously of their wisdom and their skill. We believe that a large survey of the year's output will show that many of the best of the publications of the year have received or are receiving such skilled attention in these columns. There remains for us the pleasant task of calling attention to such new books as are still at our hand, as the book number of THE NEW UNITY goes to press.

BOOKS OF INTERPRETATION.

Next to creation is criticism. Perhaps the world has been blessed with more great authors than great critics. Schiller may have been a greater poet than Lessing but Lessing's service to German literature perhaps stands next to Goethe's. Matthew Arnold lacked the kindling spark which goes with the divine afflatus but he had the clear vision and the diligent quest which made him a great interpreter of other people's writings, and through him the acquaintance of the English reading people with good literature was immeasurably enhanced. Books that are real introductions to other books, that point the way to where the good things are, are always of immense value.

Such a book is "The Comprehensive Subject Index to Universal Prose Fiction" (Dodd, Mead & Co., New York,) prepared by the associate librarian of the University of Chicago, Zella Allen Dixon. Here is a book of 420 pages of classified novels which ought to become an invaluable tool in the mental workshop of the intelligent. It is an instrument of culture. It is only the ignorant or the bigoted that now regard the novel as "light reading" or as that which is to occupy only the leisure of men and women. The novel is the avenue through which perhaps the best poetry, the tenderest philanthropy and profoundest philosophy find most adequate expression in these days. Much of the high thinking as well as of the deep feeling of our generation finds its best expression in the novel, hence the great value of this book. The librarian and those who have much to do with books will promptly appreciate it, but we commend it to the buyers of few books and the busy people who have time to read but few. This book will save such from being at the mercy of the "latest novel" or the most persistent book agent. This will enable one to read topically into fiction. Opening the book

at random we find under "Criminology" forty-two titles, with such names as Hawthorne, Howells, Hall Caine, and Conan Doyle; under "Oliver Cromwell," twenty-four novels; "Child Life," forty-four, with a cross reference to three more stories illustrative of the "Children's Crusades." To those who direct children's readings, thirty-five books on Zoölogy offer a tempting list, reaching from Charles Kingsley's "Water Babies" to Victor Hugo's "Toilers of the Sea." A monument of diligence as is the book, it is of course not perfect, and it is a book that will grow through subsequent editions. The distinction between the English novels and those in foreign languages and a little more definite notation of the foreign language in which the book is found would be an improvement. There are some topics manifestly not so intelligently compiled as others, but these are suggestions for the editor rather than for the public and it is to be hoped that those using the book will promptly inform the editor of the sins of commission and omission that the future editions of this really valuable book may be still more valuable.

Edwin James Dunning's "Study of the Shakespearean Sonnets and Poems" (Lee & Shepard, Boston, \$1.50), appeals to the reader first because it is a triumph of the soul over difficulties. A. W. Stevens in his introduction tells us that "had the writer not been stricken with blindness at the age of fifty-seven, the book would probably never have been written." But the book soon interests us for its own sake. It is clearly a book written in the interest of a theory, which fascinating theory is that the Shakespeare Sonnets have a sequence and that the "Youth" addressed is the personified poetic ideal of the poet; and that "Venus and Adonis" is a prologue and "The Lover's Complaint" an epilogue to this Sonnet Sequence. Whatever may be the fate of the "theory," the sympathetic reader can but rejoice in the inspiration which the theory has been to the blind brooder over these great lines, and if one after reading the book is inclined to distrust the theory it will be only after he has established a lasting friendship with this much neglected portion of the great master's writing.

The world is not yet through with Charles Dickens, and Frederick G. Kitton in his modest little work which he calls "A Bibliography and Sketch of the Novels of Charles Dickens" (Elliot Stock, London.), has put within reach of clubs and young readers interesting helps to the appreciation of these novels, and what is more valuable, to the selection as to what to read next as one travels through the Dickens' country. The method is a simple one,—taking up the principle works one at a time, giving the history of their creation; their relations to the author's life and such facts as throw

light upon the leading characters with bits of helpful criticism thrown in.

Of books about authors there is no end. We are in the habit of warning, at least young readers, from such books. We can well conceive of no one acquiring a taste for poetry, still less of mastering in an appreciative way any field of literature by following a chronological or other guide book. But after the taste is formed and a certain amount of literature has become the mental property of a reader, then such a book as Hugh Walker's "Age of Tennyson" (George Bell & Sons, London, 90c.), is a very suggestive one. It helps one to systemize and become acquainted with his own cabinet. For convenience sake the book limits the "Age of Tennyson" to from 1830 to 1870, and a glance at the table of contents alone brings a realizing sense of how great were these forty years, how great names and great productions crowd and jostle one another. There can be no question of the value of such a book as this to the teacher and to the adult, however it may be for the young. This professor of Lampeter College, Wales, will often fail to please the reader who has been over the ground with him but that is to be expected and his services are all the greater to one who is not at his mercy. This is one of a series of hand-books in English literature in course of publication which when complete will make a convenient short meter "Cyclopædia of English Literature."

We need add nothing to Mr. Chadwick's admirable notice of "The Boston Browning Society Papers" (Macmillan, New York, \$3.) already printed in these columns, neither can we pass it over in this connection without expressing our congratulation to the Macmillan Company for the handsome piece of book-making here presented, and to the Boston society for the remarkable series of interpretive essays herein continued: twenty-four studies from such men as Colonel Higginson, Josiah Royce, W. J. Rolfe, Henry Jones, C. C. Everett, Philip Moxom, John Chadwick, Charlotte Porter, Helen Clark, Emma E. Marean, and others. The subjects are well matched to the men. Professor Royce speaks of "Browning's Theism," Charles B. Ames "Caliban on Setebos," Dean Everett sets himself to "Sordello," Vida D. Scudder to the "Greek Spirit in Shelley and Browning." Without speaking of that which it is not for us to judge, it is doubtful whether the years have offered to the English reader a more sane book of interpretations of the great master than this.

The "Message of the Mystics" is the very ambitious and somewhat misleading title given by Mary Hanford Ford to three very pretty little books, entitled respectively "The Holy Grail," Goethe's "Faust," Balzac's "Seraphita" (Alice B. Stockam & Co., Chicago, \$3.) The substance of these books

has evidently done duty on the platform, and they may illustrate the unwisdom of making a dead book out of a live lecture. As lectures, with the personality of the lecturer to interpret the word, the social contact to increase the enjoyment, this material would doubtless be very instructive and stimulating, but as books they attempt either too much or too little. The version of the "Holy Grail" story is too elective to be reliable, and if it does not stimulate to further reading and more careful study, it will have a tendency to breed the priggish complacency such as is too often bred by the "study classes" too much in vogue, which settle a masterpiece in a night and dispose of whole literatures in a winter's course of weekly meetings. The story of "The Holy Grail" popularized by Wagner, and clothed with a new interest by the Abbey frescoes in the Boston Library, tempts careful reading of the Arthurian cycle of myth and legend, the most fertile of the western world. In this study the distinction between the British and the continental versions should be kept in mind. The book on "Goethe's 'Faust'" devotes some seventy pages to a literary biography of the author. The remaining ninety pages is an interesting summary of Faust, or at least so much of it as pertains to the central lesson as the author conceives it. To one having carefully studied Faust these pages are interesting. Let those who have not read it beware of taking this as a substitute. The book entitled "Balzac's Seraphita" more nearly fills a "felt want" because it serves as an introduction to a foreign author too little known, and may tempt the reader into rich fields. For this reason it is well that there is more Balzac than Seraphita in the study.

BOOKS OF SCIENCE.

Sir Archibald Geikie's "The Founder of Geology" (Macmillan Co., New York. \$2.00), has already been noticed in these columns by Mr. Powell. We take pleasure in again calling attention to this valuable book. We will not speak of the geology of it, the author's name is a guaranty for that, but this vivid biographical way of bringing home the truth of evolution, of illustrating the evolution of an idea as well as the evolution of the world, makes it a most valuable addition to the literature of popular science. The fact that these chapters were first delivered as lectures before the Johns Hopkins University on the Lectureship foundation established by Mrs. George Huntington Williams in memory of her husband, a distinguished geologist, greatly adds to the human interest in the book.

Three more books of the charming series "The Library of Useful Stories," are at hand (D. Appleton & Co., New York. \$0.40 each): "The Story of a piece of Coal," by Edward A. Martin; "The Story of Germ Life," by H. W. Conn; and the "Story of Extinct Civilization," by Robert E. Ander-

son. The former abounds in facts of great scientific and poetic as well as economic interest, as the titles "Early History, Its Uses and Abuse," "How Gas is Made," "The Coal Supplies of the World," etc., would indicate. The second reconciles us even to the bacteria and shows how a comparatively few number are dangerous, and that these humble organisms are indispensable factors of progress; without them the wheels of life would not go round. The last is an available text book for Bible-class and Sunday-school, at least one pastor working on the second year of the six-years' course has found it a most available and timely help.

"In Brook and Bayou," by Clara Kern Bayliss (D. Appleton & Co., New York), is a little book which ought to have been noticed in the summer time. It is one of a series of home reading books edited by W. T. Harris. It is descriptive of life in the still waters. The illustrations are admirable and numerous; several colored plates. This is one more tool for the intelligent mother. With a little loving and intelligent paraphrase here are tales more charming than fairy tales. Wisely handled, this book will help lay the foundations of a reverence that will be respectful of all life, devout in the presence of all sanctities.

How far ethics can be taught didactically and analytically is a question for the experts to answer. It is too true that text books of ethics look dry, and the old-time "Professor of Moral Philosophy" was apt to be the least juicy man on the faculty, some venerable "D.D.," who had outgrown his elasticity. But still the work must go on, and it is of increasing interest. The last attempt in this direction would seem to be a book issued in the "University Tutorial Series," a manual of ethics, by John S. MacKenzie (note the philosophic name), professor of logic and philosophy in the University College of South Wales (University College Correspondence Press, London and New York. \$1.50.) The third edition is before us, a fat book of four hundred and fifty-six pages with carefully classified subjects, conveniently paragraphed for class work. Others more competent must decide upon the ultimate merits of the book, but a glance at the table of contents and the index shows how careful the preparation and how modern the handling. Ethics is finally driven for its justification and explanation to metaphysics in this book. The note on ethical literature at the close of the book is suggestive and valuable.

BOOKS OF POETRY.

Of all books, books on poetry are the most dangerous for the critic to handle, for in the review it is the reviewer, more than the author, that is interpreted. Time is the only critic whose decisions avail much in this realm. While the competent are still at variance as to what poetry is, who dares pass

judgment on any given production? In view of the sad disappointments, the overwhelming proportion of books and poems that are still-born, it is no wonder that the editor heaves a sigh when a new book of poetry appears or a fresh poem is offered. And still what a sad world this would become if the stream of poetry were to cease. Stupid would the products of the press become without these illuminating spots. How great is the success when even a temporary recognition is won. Happy the poet who woos us to an occasional halt and lifts us into even a momentary oblivion of surroundings.

One is perfectly safe in rejoicing over a new volume of poems by Edmund Clarence Stedman (Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, \$1.50), for his right to a place on the bookshelf is long ago vindicated, and his power over the human heart is a matter of prolonged experience. This foremost man of letters in America to-day, puts us under new obligation to him for this volume of poems, many of them familiar before, but now for the first time gathered in a handsome volume. The book is sufficiently commended and heartily introduced when we say that it contains "The Hand of Lincoln;" "Helen Keller;" "Corda Concordia," the poem read at the opening session of the summer school at Concord in 1881; the "Lines sent to the funeral of Walt Whitman with an ivy wreath," and the "Yale Ode for Commencement Day for 1895." The last group in the book, entitled "The Carib Sea," containing fifteen pages, offers the freshest field of study, but one needs leisure, a hammock, and the mid-summer accompaniments to appreciate these tropic lullabies, and we hope "the gentle reader" will bear in mind this suggestion when mid-summer comes. It is fitting that this volume should close with a tribute to Shelley, the poet's poet, the eternal child.

Thyself the wild West wind, O boy divine,
With eyes of wonder at our world of grief and wrong.

No one would recognize more promptly the abrupt transitions and violent changes than Sam Walter Foss himself, in taking up his last volume immediately after laying down Stedman's, and still so they lie upon our table, and we are not dissatisfied, for both volumes are united, at least in a common sincerity and ethical directness, both are written by men in earnest. The pages of Stedman carry a classic grace, those of Foss rustic simplicity. The one shows careful workmanship, perhaps too deliberate pruning and polishing; the other abrupt and too reckless spontaneity. Stedman is a child of the University, Foss a product of the farm. This third volume by Mr. Foss, "Dreams in Homespun," (Lee & Shepard, Boston, \$1.50), is another study in Yankee dialect, an attempt to perpetuate the homely idioms and nasal tones of the down-easter. We like to meet these kind of things in the newspa-

per corner, but to take up a whole book full of them makes rather serious business of our laughing. Still we like it and will keep this volume at hand to break in upon the overtension of nerves, for he too sings "The Song of the Conquerors."

But the soldier that we sing of never kills.
But he fights with wind and icy flocks in the welter of the seas,
And he drives his fire-lunged war-horse through the night;
Hear his fire-bowelled courser through the drifted midnight wheeze;
Here is battle worth the singing, here is fight!

The next volume at hand, "Poetical Sermons," by William E. Davenport (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, \$1.50), staggers the most ardent admirer of Walt Whitman, and he is compelled to exclaim "Is it coming to this?" Are we to have a whole procession of these poets who are so defiant to poetry? Whatever may be said of this author it is safe to say that he loved Walt Whitman and Henry Ward Beecher. The book opens with "The Ballad of Plymouth Church," and closes with a rhapsody to Henry Ward Beecher. We might read without flinching the picture of Walt Whitman hob-nobbing with Augustine and Luther, and his "Easter Hope" of talking some day with Moses, Elijah, Shelley, and Whitman, but we break down when he out-Whitmans Whitman in the couplet

I make make no bones about the matter at all.
I know that as yet I have interested only a few persons but
also know that I shall interest millions.

And still we are bound to confess that these sermons are easier read than many of the homilies that reach our table, and that they are sermons indeed in their ethical intent, humanitarian sympathies, outlooking and inreaching courage. We do not know what to call this book, but it is not a book to be dismissed too promptly, and if to be sensitive to human suffering, sympathetic with the struggles of the humble, the unsung, if to feel the aspirations of the age, to have unbounded faith in the future are the characteristics of a poet, then this post-office clerk of Station E, in New York City, must be called a poet. At least his book abounds in the material out of which poetry is to be made. Perhaps after second reading and more thinking we may find that it is a book of poetry, after all justifying the workmanship of the Putnam House, which is increasingly admirable.

"The Colloquy," by Josiah Augustus Seitz (Putnam's Sons, New York, \$1.75), is another book of verse beautifully executed, from which the hurried and tired mind shrinks. It is a book which we meant to taste and skim, but which we did read because it was easy reading and tempting. It is "Conversations" about the order of things and final good, held in the Chapel of the blessed St. John, all in blank verse. The first seven "Conversations" pile up the questions of this generation, questions of God, man, and destiny. In answer to these ques-

tionings a hermit, a sage, a seer, a mystic, a poet, a scientist, have their say. The book shows wide reading and careful thinking, and great familiarity with modern thought and problems. The conclusions are such as fit into the larger faith that rests in the thought of evolution, and that justifies the dreams of poet and prophet. Among other attractions this book realizes one requisite of high poetry, and that is condensed statement; a vast field of thought and human experience, a wide range of knowledge, are here condensed into about six thousand lines, the argument and the evidence of which in prose would likely have dragged itself through several volumes. Many interested in these problems will enjoy this metrical argument, to whom the more masterful books are not available.

"New Poems," by Francis Thompson (Copeland & Day. Boston. \$1.50), is another candidate for a place on the poetic shelf. Daintily printed, as all the works of this firm are, the topics run through a wide range of subjects, as the following will indicate: "Assumpta Maria," "The After Woman," "A Girl's Sin," "Ode to the Setting Sun," etc. In turning the pages of this book we can but envy the joy and culture that came to the writer in the writing, and can but hope that the reader may catch something of that same subtle grace and reflectiveness which called the book into being.

The same house gives us a humbler volume of Harriet Prescott Spofford's poems entitled "In Titian's Garden and Other Poems." (Copeland & Day, Boston. \$1.25.) Most of these poems have been met before by the reader of the best magazines, the Independent, etc. The initial poem is a marvelously successful reproduction in words of the indolent, sensuous, luxurious atmosphere of Venice. But the poems entitled "Bronte," "The Tear Bottle," "The Making of the Pearl," and many others, show the careful work and the thoughtful mind more to our liking.

"A dream of the Adirondacks and Other Poems," by Mrs. Helen Hinsdale Rich, has been before the public for many years, and has long been out of print. "Murillo's Slave and Other Poems" (Rand, McNally & Co., Chicago. \$1.00), contains the best that were in that volume, and many new ones. Among the poems brought over are "Little Phil" and "Justice in Leadville," which take their place among the best of the dialect poems of the far west. "Wanted—A Man," is a poem to be read from the pulpit. Many of the poems in this volume our readers are already familiar with, for Mrs. Rich's lines find frequent place in the columns of THE NEW UNITY. "Private Henry" well tells the story of the colored cook who, in connection with the Sixth Wisconsin Battery, carried the canteens of water to the boys in the front of the battle at Corinth. Mrs. Rich is not a great poet. She probably enjoys too

much the dangerous gift of fluency for that, but she has a sure place among the minor singers that touch the heart of love and the soul of hope.

NEW OLD BOOKS.

Of reproductions from the wealth already ours, the new edition of Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass" (Small, Maynard & Co., Boston. \$2.00), is nearest at hand and most to our liking. Of the attractiveness of this volume in form and added material, Prof. Triggs speaks in another column. We mention it here simply to express our own gratitude, and to quote the following from the Thanksgiving number of the Independent:

If the unflagging labor of the late Walter Whitman's friends can avail, "Leaves of Grass" will some day be forced down the throat of the world, and everybody will be compelled by a sort of literary inquisition, to accept Whitman as a great poet. . . . It is a curious incident in literary history—this Whitman delusion. Nothing in nineteenth century civilization can be compared to it, unless it is the colossal myth of hypnotism, or the absurd claim of the Theosophists.

Here is severe criticism passed upon somebody. Is it upon the reviewer or upon the reviewed?

"From the Upanishads," by Charles Johnston (Thomas B. Mosher, Portland, Me. \$0.50), is something more than a dainty study on book-making; that it is, like all of Mosher's publications; but it is a careful study and translation from the wealth of the Upanishads. Mr. Johnston takes great pains to connect Emerson with his Oriental poem, and successfully shows how much the American seer held in common with the Oriental sages. The leading extract is entitled "In the House of Death," which is none other than the way to eternal things. "He builds for endlessness."

"Gems," compiled by Mary E. Vibbert (J. Stillman Smith, Boston. \$1.00), shows the wide gleaning of an appreciative hand. One is impressed with the number of authors as with the value of the gems, but such a book is shorn of much of its interest from the fact that it has no index, either of topic or of authors, both of which are needed.

Last year we noted a brilliant new edition of Irving's "Sketch Book," in two volumes. This year we welcome a uniform edition of "Astoria," by the same author (Putnam's Sons, New York. \$6.00.) It is called the "Tacoma Edition," and contains many illustrations of the wild life and magnificent scenery of the Rockies and beyond. This work is at once a graphic witness to the vitality of the writings of Washington Irving, the artistic skill of the Knickerbocker Press, and the enterprise of the Putnams.

Mr. Chadwick has already reviewed, from time to time, Prof. Moulton's tempting series of "The Modern Reader's Bible." The last one, "Select Masterpieces of Biblical Literature" (MacMillan, New York. \$0.50), is, we believe, the twelfth volume of a series which call for still another editing with still a freer hand. If the books were issued in their

chronological order with more critical reliability and with the same high literary appreciation, it would not only meet the wants of the modern reader, but it would multiply the readers immensely. We are glad Prof. Moulton is doing this excellent work, but it is a work that needs to be done again.

"The Combination Bible," published by the National Publishing Co., of Philadelphia, is another progressive tool for the Bible worker who does not quite like to abandon the old version, still is anxious to know the new. All the changes of the revised version are indicated at the bottom of the page. The appendix contains interesting suggestions of the Assyrian side-lights and forelights, a table of contents, lists of Bible plants, animals, etc., a glossary of antiquities, with a brief subject-index and a concordance. It is bound in flexible leather after the manner of the Oxford Students' Bible. This is probably the most attractive and valuable table Bible for the price, obtainable.

BOOKS OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY

Surely Evelyn Abbott, of Oxford, editor of the "Heroes of the Nations," interprets his title broadly. The list reaches from Nelson to Joan of Arc, from Cicero to Abraham Lincoln. Twenty-two volumes are now out. The last two are at hand, "Hannibal," by W. O'Conner Morris, of Oriel College; and "Ulysses S. Grant," by William Conant Church, editor of the Army and Navy Journal. (Putnam's Sons, New York and London. \$1.50 each.) The international character of this series makes this life of Gen. Grant, as was the life of Lincoln by Brooks, in this series, peculiarly important. The coming generation at least, of readers on the other side of the Atlantic, will know the hero of Appomattox more through this work of Mr. Church than any other one book. We are happy in having so satisfactory a book in matter and in illustration to represent the great commander who so promptly sheathed his sword, and on whose tomb is inscribed the great text "Let us have peace."

Of narrower scope, but still of prominent interest, is General Cox's monograph of the "Battle of Franklin," (Chas. Scribner's Sons, New York. \$2.00), which is probably the conclusive word concerning a battle much in dispute. The campaign of which the battle of Franklin is an episode is less dramatic than Sherman's "March to the Sea," but the hard work was being done that winter in Tennessee, not in Georgia. Boys who love to read of battle scenes for high causes, by brave men, will love this book, while many an old soldier, like the present writer, will read between the lines a history that will never be written.

Lastly, there is just at hand the story of "the noblest Roman of them all," in many ways the greatest of the anti-slavery host, the "Life and Letters of Harriet Beecher Stowe," edited by Mrs.

James T. Field. (Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston. \$2.00). What a marvelous story! What a great triumph! Happy should we be that this work has fallen into the hands of one so skilled and sympathetic as Mrs. Field, one who can say of much she has written, "All of which I have seen, part of which I was." This great publishing house has done nothing this year more deserving of our lasting gratitude than the giving to us of a handsome definitive edition of the writings of Harriet Beecher Stowe, in sixteen volumes, of which this book is the fitting capstone.

CALENDARS.

As the new year approaches there comes a fresh display of inventiveness in the direction of calendars. This seems to be a sort of border-land of literature, where amateurs may work to their delight, and sometimes to their profit.

First comes the tablet calendar of the Pope Manufacturing Company (Hartford, Conn.), which, of course, is intended to exploit the "Columbia Wheel," and most successfully will it do it. It is a bit of ingenious advertising in the least obtrusive and most persistent form. The tablet is self-mounted, with convenient "engagement" spaces. The mottoes are gleaned from the richest source of English literature. You do not know until the day comes whether it is to be Shakespeare or the fact that "The Columbia leads the cycling world."

Next comes the Ian Maclaren calendar (Dodd, Mead & Co., New York), a very striking witness of the interest in and virility of the Scotchman. One page to each month, and one crisp line for each day, with side readings and forceful wood-etchings of Drumtochty and kindred scenes.

Lastly, for this time, is the "Aloha Lend-a-hand Club Calendar" (Marshall Field Building, Chicago. 80 cents), a most creditable piece of amateur work, a thing to hang up in the home or over one's dresser in the bedroom. A page to each week, a noble motto for each day conveniently arranged on rings with ribbon, a handy thing that piques the mind and feeds the heart. It comes in among the daily strength for daily need supplies. It is a creditable effort of some young women to help along their club activities.

Therefore your halls, your ancient colleges,
Your portals statued with old kings and queens;
Your gardens, myriad-volumed libraries,
Wax lighted chapels and rich carven screens;
Your doctors and your proctors and your deans
Shall not avail you when the day beam sports
New risen o'er awakened Albion. No!
Nor yet your solemn organ pipes that blow
Melodious thunders through your vacant courts
At noon and eve, because your manner sorts
Not with this age, wherefrom ye stand apart,
Because the lips of little children preach
Against you, you that do profess to teach,
And teach us nothing, feeding not the heart.

Tennyson.

Thou shalt not only fly, but also take others on thy wings;
for thy strength is given thee wherewith to help the weak.
Ivan Panin.

The Study Table.

Passage, indeed, O soul to primal thought,
Not lands and seas alone, thy own clear freshness,
The young maturity of blood and bloom,
To realms of budding bibles.

O soul, repressless, I with thee and thou with me,
The circumnavigation of the world begin,
Of man, the voyage of his mind's return
To reason's early paradise.
Back, back to wisdom's birth, to innocent intuitions,
Again with fair creation.

Walt Whitman.

Walt Whitman.*

Whitman's "Leaves of Grass" has at length received worthy publication at the hands of Messrs. Small, Maynard and Company, the new Boston firm of publishers. A new and complete edition of the Leaves is put forth which is a splendid piece of book-making, the block form, the tastily designed covers, and the light soft paper constituting for once an adequate receptacle for a poetry intended to charm by its beauty of phrase as well as instruct by the depth and variety of its thought. The new features of this edition are an Index of First Lines, a portrait of Whitman as photographed by Guntekunst in 1880, the facsimile of the original manuscript of "After the Supper and the Talk," and posthumous additions to the Leaves, which consist of some thirteen poems, most of them printed here for the first time from the manuscripts, gathered under the caption of "Old World Echoes," a title reserved by the poet himself for such an aftermath. "Death's Valley" has been published before to accompany George Inness' picture of the "Valley of the Shadow," reproduced in *Harper's Monthly* in 1896. The most important addition is perhaps "A Thought of Columbus," the poet's last deliberate composition, dating December, 1891.

As this forms the definitive edition of "Leaves of Grass," the thirteenth copyright taken out by Whitman and his literary executors, an account of the growth of the "Leaves" from the inception in 1855 will interest the reader who takes up the volume for the first time and instruct him as to the meaning of the completed work. The dates of the earlier editions are 1855, 1856, 1860, 1867, 1871, 1876, 1881, 1882, 1889, and 1892. The poem as completed exhibits perfect fidelity to the history of a human soul. The first volume rose out of the poet's life in Brooklyn and New York from 1838 to 1855, during which time Whitman absorbed the events of an immense population with intimacy, eagerness, and abandon. Each successive edition represented the author's growth during the period of preparation. Each one has identity with all that had preceded and is cumulative. The completed volume is the history of a life in the nineteenth century.

The poems of 1855, 1856, and 1860 exploit Whitman's theory of a democratic literature. They issued at the high tide of the poet's own vigor, and having as their main object stimulation and expansion, they radiate personal force to a degree wholly unprecedented in literature. These were the poems that pleased Emerson. Each poem is an utterance

of the self as it comes to realization through its own activity and by contact with the object world. The chief poem of these editions is the "Song of Myself," which may be called "Leaves of Grass" in epitome, the later poems being the elaboration in experience of the propositions of this first poem. The first edition contained a long preface and twelve poems without titles. In 1856 the number was increased to thirty-two. In 1860 they amounted to one hundred and fifty-seven. The important additions in 1860 were the "Children of Adam" and the "Calamus Poems." The war cluster, entitled "Drum-Taps," published separately in 1865 and merged with the "Leaves" in 1867, was the result of a special emotional experience and is complete within itself. To this group the immortal Lincoln poems belong. Singularly the war chants controlled the plan of the book thenceforth, forming the keystone of an arch supported by the pillars "Life and Death." By this time the poet's ideal plan had formed, and the different groups received names and rearrangement according to the ideal scheme. In 1871 the poems occur in a thought sequence, referring to ensemble.

Two new poems, "Passage to India," and "After All Not to Create Only," mystic in their import, give to the volume that unity of impression in which "Death and the Unknown are as essential and important to Completed Personality as Life and the Known." In 1871 the poems number two hundred and forty-nine. The edition of 1876 is little more than a collection of imprints. It was especially prepared for the centennial year, having for its object the illustration of Americanism and Republicanism. The important additions are contained in the second volume, entitled "Two Rivulets," and refer to spiritual existence. The idea of moral law dominates the composition. For the seventh edition in 1881 "Leaves of Grass" was given its last revision by the poet and the groups arranged in their present order. The later poems appear in annexes as "Sands at Seventy," "Good Bye My Fancy," and "Old Age Echoes." The total number of compositions appearing in the successive editions is four hundred and twenty-six.

The Unitary idea determining the order and classification of the poems in the last edition is that of democracy. "Leaves of Grass," as a whole is the bible of democracy. Its problem is two-fold, to develop supreme individuals on the one hand and on the other to bind these separate sovereign selves into a social union. "Leaves of Grass" has for its chief aim the stimulation of personality. The purpose of the first group of poems is to arouse, dilate, expand and greatness the reader. Consequently they radiate personal energy—they are proud, defiant, strenuous, joyful, optimistic. The function of the second group of poems is to provide for Union. They show the identification of each with all, with Nature and with God. The first stage of union is in sex. A higher and more spiritual identity is found in comradeship or union in the spiritual human. Other forms of union appear in the songs of occupation and in the chants of nature. The war was a war for union—the "Drum-Taps" inculcate, therefore, identity in nationality. The songs of death and parting declare the fusion of soul and body in a cosmic order. As Pride was the keyword of the first group, Love becomes the sign of the

*"LEAVES OF GRASS," by Walt Whitman. Small, Maynard & Co., 6 Beacon st., Boston. Price, \$200.

second series. To sing the Great Idea, the transcendental Union—that, thought Whitman, must be the mission of poets. "Leaves of Grass" in last analysis is the song of the Great Idea.

The same firm announces the issue later in the autumn of "Whitman's Complete Prose Works," to be printed from new plates, and to contain new portraits, facsimiles of manuscripts, and views illustrating the autobiographical character of the work.

OSCAR LOVELL TRIGGS.

Notable Books.

THE LETTERS OF ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.*

The editing of these beautiful volumes leaves nothing to desire. The editor's additions supply all that is needed for the clear understanding of the various circumstances and situations out of which the letters grew. And, while these admit as to an intimate acquaintance with Mrs. Browning's personal life, they at no point transgress the proper limits of our knowledge. It is true that Mrs. Browning's father is allowed to display himself in a very disagreeable manner, but if he gets no worse punishment than this for his outrageous conduct he may consider himself let off very easily. Mrs. Browning's letters to R. G. Horne, published some years ago, were very disappointing, though wonderful as a revelation of her intellectual powers and cultivation. The recollection of them should not deter anyone from attempting the volumes which are now proffered us. Not but that they have dull and superfluous pages here and there, especially in the earlier stages. Apparently she at first wrote each letter in a solid block and her editor has not thought it best to break them up into paragraphs; though, by so doing, he would have done much to relieve the monotony of their appearance and impression, and have made skipping vastly easier.

The date of Mrs. Browning's birth, which has been much discussed, is fixed on March 6, 1806. Her literary bent was strong from her earliest years. Her first epic, "The Battle of Marathon," was published, or rather printed, by her father when she was but thirteen years old. Seven years later "An Essay on Mind and Other Poems" was offered to the world, but met with little favor, though probably with as much as it deserved. In 1832 her early home was broken up. Soon after she published her translation of "Prometheus," which must not be confounded with that generally published with her other poems, which was a revision made in 1845. After a few years of hesitation the Barrett family settled in London in 1835, and Miss Barrett entered almost immediately on that invalidism of which there had been already serious anticipations, and which ended only with her life, though after her marriage in 1846 she was for some time comparatively a new creature. Her secluded life contributed largely to the fullness of her correspondence and to the furtherance of her literary predilections. In 1836 she made her first literary venture that was not anonymous, "The Romaunt of Margret," which was published in Colburn's New Monthly in July, "The Poet's Hour," following in October.

From this time on the volumes faithfully reflect the fortunes of her literary career, often flattering,

*THE LETTERS OF ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.—Edited with Biographical additions by Frederick G. Kenyon. With portraits. In two volumes. New York: The MacMillan Co., 1897. Cloth. 12mo. \$4.00.

often harsh in their rebuffs. It is interesting to note that in 1850, when Wordsworth's death called for another Laureate, the *Athenæum* suggested her name, while no one thought of her husband as among the possibilities. From 1850 to 1860 she led her husband by many lengths in the race for popularity, and in the early 'sixties we find Robert Browning devoting himself to modeling in clay as if his occupation as a poet were quite gone.

The more pathetic, consequently, is the fact that our interest in these volumes is largely due to the light which they reflect on Robert Browning's life and character and work. From the moment he appears upon the scene, we read the letters with a deepening interest. But at the same time our appreciation of Mrs. Browning is much enhanced. All who read these volumes will value her personality, if not her poetry, more highly than before. They will find more mass and solidity in it than they expect. A letter giving an account of her marriage and justifying it, so long and full that it leaves nothing to be desired, and it is as sensible a letter as the most unpoetic woman in the world could write. Certainly her father was a brute to draw the prize in a competition confined to parents opposing the course of true love in their children's lives. When, after five years' absence in Italy, Mrs. Browning returned to England and both she and her husband wrote Mr. Barrett, with all possible respect and tenderness, begging him to let his daughter come to him that he might kiss her child, the answer was a package containing *unopened* all the letters she had written him since her marriage. Other attempts upon his adamant heart were equally fruitless and ultimately, after treating another daughter and a son in much the same fashion, he died and left no sign of forgiveness or regret. Nothing in Mrs. Browning's letters is more beautiful than the spirit with which she bore this monstrous treatment at her father's hands. As for the good Robert, whatever he said or did, he must have wished to collar the old sinner and thrash him within an inch of his life.

The enthusiasm of Mrs. Browning's Italian politics is one of the most interesting features of these letters. That it involved an enthusiasm for Louis Napoleon is a fly in the ointment of stupendous size, but if her judgment here is disapproved it must be in spite of the persuasion that her liking for the Emperor was defended with great intellectual acuteness. In the last letter given, she writes of Cavour in terms of passionate admiration: "A hundred Garibaldis for such a man!" The letters are rich in their allusions to men and books. There are fine passages about Margaret Fuller and Mrs. Stowe, albeit, with, here and there, a touch of that "certain condescension in foreigners," on which Mr. Lowell made a memorable comment. Arnold and Clough are decried as not being "artists," a strange criticism, especially of Arnold, coming from Mrs. Browning, who was herself poet and artist in inverse proportions. Thackeray is depreciated, both intellectually and socially, Kossuth with moral reprobation. Very beautiful, indeed, was Mrs. Browning's affection for a person so different from herself as Harriet Martineau. Tennyson is always spoken of with admiration, though his "Blow bugle, blow!" is depreciated in comparison with other things. Mrs. Browning's idea that the first "Locksley Hall" reported a personal experience of unrequited love

gets its appropriate comment in the new life of Tennyson. It is strange to have her misquoting Tennyson most horribly more than once and attributing to a poet of his rank such a prosaic line as,

More and more life is what we want.

Her account of his reading "Maud" from end to end at one sitting, with occasional exclamatory self-approval, is very good, indeed. Best of all is the impression that we get of Robert Browning. Pages 434-5, vol. II., are a most precious legacy on this account. She tells with proper indignation of an English lady of rank asking the American minister if Browning was an American. The minister replied, "Is it possible *you* ask me *this*?" and went on to say that he was known as a great English poet in the poorest village in America. Mrs. Browning fondly believes that this was "literally true," but it is hardly so to-day and it could not have been so in 1861. What is true, however, as here set down, is that both Mr. and Mrs. Browning got their first due recognition on this side of the water.

After quoting Browning's infinitely tender letter on the death of his wife, Mr. Kenyon adds, "So ended on earth the most perfect example of wedded happiness in the history of literature." There is nothing in these volumes to give a contrary impression. Those who delight in marring perfect things will get no comfort here. Their disagreement on the subject of spiritualism has been made so much of that Mr. Kenyon anticipates the criticism that he has garbled the correspondence to make that difference less obvious. He assures us that he has done nothing of the kind, that Mrs. Browning's letters, while reflecting the difference, do not contain a hint that it ever made the slightest rift in either lover's lute. The foundations of their mutual affection were deeper than such differences of mere opinion ever go. It would be an impiety to withhold all mention of Mrs. Browning's delight in her own motherhood. She had "the mother's rapture" to the full, and it overflows like sunshine upon many a pleasant page, while at the same time the editor has been so discreet in his abridgement of her rhapsodies that there is little reason, if any, for complaint. Taken in its entirety his work is such as calls for our sincerest gratitude and our warmest praise.

THE STORY OF GLADSTONE'S LIFE.*

We have here a large book containing a comparatively small amount of reading matter because it is printed in such large type and with such generous spacing between the words and lines. It has many illustrations and they have necessitated the using of a paper that is highly glazed, which is a real misfortune. The book, apart from its outward manufacture, which is extremely elegant, is likely to dismount all the other popular presentations of Gladstone's life, and to expect a better one in the future would be unwarrantable. That it is the final life of Gladstone no one will be so foolish as to imagine. That can never be written while Gladstone still lives. Mr. McCarthy has written in the past tense, as if he were already dead, or as if anticipating his early demise, hardly, we think, a graceful thing for him to do. His book is more of a eulogy than of a

criticism. The general impression does not exceed the statesman's glorious worth, but the coming biographer will make certain qualifications. Especially will Gladstone's predilection for theology be shown to have been a great misfortune, his work upon this line to have been remarkable for its futility. When, in conclusion, Mr. McCarthy tells us that neither among Gladstone's followers or opponents has he "ever heard of any serious defect in his nature and his character, or of any unworthy motive influencing his private and public career," we wonder where he has secluded himself for the last twenty years, during which Gladstone has not been more surely the "Grand Old Man" for some than he has been the "Wicked Old Man" for others. One of the most interesting studies for his future biographer will be that of the two Gladstones, an explication of the means whereby the conception of his phenomenal wickedness was evolved.

In the meantime Mr. McCarthy has told the story of Gladstone's life in a delightful, highly sympathetic manner. If, at times, his style is slipshod, it is habitually bright and clear. The story is an extremely interesting and inspiring one. We see the man who in the thirties was "the rising hope of those stern and unbending Tories," who were rampant in those days, becoming in the later fifties the rising hope of Liberals for whom even the Whiggism of Palmerston was not far enough removed from the Toryism which it opposed. We see Disraeli, entering the political arena as a Radical, becoming a Tory without losing his democratic sympathies, and we see the battles royal of these two giants, panoplied very differently, but each fighting grandly for his own. What we are not permitted to see is the cumulative success of Gladstone's high endeavors for the good of the Irish people. In Egypt he reaped the whirlwind where Disraeli had sown the wind. Mr. McCarthy has done much to show the consistency of his general course and to relieve him of the charge of shaping his policy upon the dictates of temporary expediency, a charge which has frequently been brought against him. There is one sentence in the book which may well bring a blush of shame to the cheek of the American citizen. It is this, where the biographer is speaking of Disraeli and Gladstone as both free from every sordid taint: "On one or two occasions when accusation was made against either man of having shown a spirit of favoritism in some public appointment, the charge was easily disproved and, indeed, would not have been seriously believed by many people in any case." Evidently the effete monarchies of Europe have some traits of which our young republic may very well take heed to the end that it may profit withal.

CORLEONE; A TALE OF SICILY.*

In this story Mr. Crawford takes up again the thread of that Italian series which had for its first number "Saricenesca," for its second "Sant' Ilario," for its third "Don Orsino," and it looks as if the end were not yet. Although articulated with its predecessors, it is so quite loosely, and no one need be deterred from reading it by his failure to have read its predecessors. It must be understood that we do not go to Mr. Crawford for instruction or for

*THE STORY OF GLADSTONE'S LIFE.—By Justin McCarthy. New York. McMillan & Co., 1897. Decorated cloth, quarto, \$6.00.

*CORLEONE; A TALE OF SICILY.—By F. Marion Crawford. 2 vols. Cloth 15mo. New York The Macmillan Co. 1897 \$2.00.

any high order of æsthetic emotion. We go to him simply to be amused, to enjoy his cleverness, to skip his lucubrations, to follow the intricacies of his plots and the development of his characters. "Corleone" will disappoint no one who approaches it with this understanding. For those who have had its three predecessors it will probably prove as interesting as any one of them, if not the most interesting of the whole series. The story enacts itself for the most part in Sicily, so that there is no lack of beautiful scenery, and there are brigands, and the Mafia, and three love affairs, with two women on one side and three men on the other, to make the situation more complex and exciting; in short all the properties are here for an unqualified romance, and Mr. Crawford's use of them is that of a man who understands his business perfectly. There are times when we merely wish to be amused, and at such times a book like this is just the book we want.

JOHN W. CHADWICK.

Civic Wisdom.

INDUSTRIAL FREEDOM.*

There is a preface to the book by David MacGregor Means on the above topic by David A. Wells, in which he says that "the author considers the existing methods of distributing the products of human activity by means of the wage system, and demonstrates that it tends to establish working people in a state of independence rather than subjection." The book is rigidly conservative, and is a good tonic to take in connection with the immense outflow of reform articles and books which propose radical changes in the structure of society, both as to production and distribution. I can not say that I heartily agree with either the main tenor of the book or with many specific conclusions. The author says that he pleads guilty to disbelief in the success of the schemes for social reform now most in favor. He goes so far as to say that the management of the post-office system would be far more economical in the hands of a private corporation. "The express companies would take the whole enterprise off the government's hands, render equally good service to the community, for two-thirds what it now pays, and make a good profit for their own stockholders." But we can, however, heartily agree with him in what he says about our national currency. "The currency problem would be very soon settled by the bankers of the country. The enlightened, skillful, and patriotic action of these able men during the recent years of panic has saved the nation from bankruptcy; saved it not with the co-operation of the national legislature, but in spite of its stupid and malignant opposition. If any one believes that the condition of the common people is improved by having Congress, rather than private enterprise, create and control the currency of the country, he must hold the belief in the face of a perfectly overwhelming mass of evidence. The losses suffered by workingmen from reduced wages and lack of employment since 1892 are far greater than can be made up to them by all the plans for improving their condition by diminishing the wealth of their employers."

So it comes about that this book, so conservative at

*INDUSTRIAL FREEDOM.—By David MacGregor Means. Published by D. Appleton & Co.

the outset, is very radical at the end. Hotly opposed to innovating reforms to create Utopias, Dr. Means is a perfect iconoclast when he touches government. He seems to believe our great evil is over legislation and too much governing. And he is right. We shall not get over the unrest of society and business till we shut up our law mills, and open them about once in three years, to a body of experts, to revise old statutes, and consider the need of a few new ones. We are soon to be snowed under all winter by congressional legislative action, at the rate of over one hundred laws a day. "Men are now arranging their affairs with reference to the culmination of this theory of government. They fear that the twentieth century may be ushered in by a gigantic act of repudiation by the American republic. But while these fears have been chilling enterprise, destroying income, and reducing wages, our public expenditure steadily grows. The revenue produced by increasing and multiplying taxes is all spent; more offices are created, salaries raised, pensions granted, and indebtedness increased. Yet, if any serious attempt were made—and it never has been made—to show that the greater part of the wealth taken by our governments from their subjects is spent in such a way as to improve the condition of the common people, so much as it would be improved if this wealth were left in the hands of its producers, such attempt would result in miserable failure. Until the attempt is successfully made the expectation of bettering the status of the poor by enlarging the functions of the government should be abandoned by every sincere reformer."

PROBLEMS OF DEMOCRACY.

Mr. Godkin's remarkable book entitled "Problems of Modern Democracy" I have already noted in NEW UNITY. But the book is absolutely full of quotable paragraphs which should be repeated by the press until they reach all classes of readers. I give one in this connection. "The truth is that there has never been an age of the world in which there were such opportunities for men of fortune to find enjoyment in contributions to the general welfare. To some natures philanthropy, pure and simple, is odious, but there remain art, literature, science, agriculture, education. By this last I do not mean simply instruction of youth, either at schools or colleges; but also the work of persuasion through voice and pen. There never has been in the history of the world such a field for orators and writers as a democratic country now offers. There is no nobler nor more fascinating game than the work of changing opinions of great bodies of men, by inducing them to discard old beliefs and take on new ones, or arresting their rush after strange gods. But very few indeed ever take up any such work late in life. The taste for it must be formed, and the equipment provided in youth. Though last, not least, the delusion must be got rid of that there is no use in trying to act on the minds of one's fellowmen unless one can thereby get an office. It is this which makes a great many useful young men wash their hands of politics, and go in for polo and tennis and flirtations instead. Official life, as our Government is now organized, has no field for a really high ambition. Public functionaries are becoming more and more the puppets of the managers outside, and the managers are whatever public

opinion lets them be, or insists on their being. The coming rulers of men are these who mould the thoughts or sway the passions of the multitude."

APPLETON'S HOME READING BOOKS are edited by our old friend, W. T. Harris, United States Commissioner of Education. His object is to furnish a series of books thoroughly educational in spirit, and adapted to instruct families rather than schools. The volume now laid before us is entitled "Uncle Sam's Secrets," and is a story concerning national affairs, including the post-office, the mint, and similar affairs which it is desirable that everyone should have accurate knowledge of. The series is certainly commendable for the purpose designated.

E. P. POWELL.

Allen's Christian Institutions.*

All students of church history are to be congratulated on the appearance of this notable volume. It deals with the organization, the creeds, the ritual of the Christian church, but it deals with them not in the spirit of a doctrinarian or of a mere antiquarian. It is the case of an accomplished historian dealing with a story of life and growth. His efforts are to show how these things "are related to the spiritual life and to the growth of Christian civilization." The first half of the work, dealing with the organization of the church, is itself a church history. We are given a plain statement of the facts of the early period, and the discussion of them is notable by its freedom from a rigorous and limited construction, the 'systemsucht' which has injured many an investigation. At every step we gain increase of knowledge, but the chapter dealing with monasticism is the most notable and brilliant portion. It contains a most informing exposition of the relation of monasticism to the form of church government, and an incidental but dazzling summary of the part played by monasticism in the historical development. All this is done on broad lines by a mind comprehending the whole field, and written with the lucidity and ease of style for which Dr. Allen is noted. The title of the book will not suggest the interest of its pages. We get, not mere archæology, but an historical analysis, a statement of the historic process with explanation by causes and with suggestions of the teleology of the process.

On passing to the second part, which deals with the creeds, our liking cools. There are many hasty and inaccurate phrases and, at times, an arbitrary, unhistorical use of terms. This is due apparently to the fact that Dr. Allen's mind is saturated with a certain religious philosophy, and he is led to see things in proportions not visible to us all. We will not demand that such a book shall be purely historical. We admit the propriety of interpreting and justifying, but here the interpretation outruns the facts. It is learned, philosophic, interesting, but it tends to become a one-sided doctrinal essay.

In the same way the third part, dealing with cults, has more philosophical elucidation than we believe to be warranted by the nature of the facts. Even so, however, the reader will be grateful for knowledge and insight which is not easily accessible, and after all reservations are made, the book remains a delightful and stimulating contribution, which will long have a distinctive place as history and apologetic.

F. A. CHRISTIE.

*CHRISTIAN INSTITUTIONS. A. V. G. Allen, Scribners' Sons, 1897, pp. vi 577. [The International Theological Library.]

The Significance of the Teaching of Jesus.*

Many persons unable to follow the details of present-day biblical criticism will find this little book distinctly helpful. The author's summary of the conclusions of Harnack and Wendt are so clear and simple that the uninitiated may easily understand them. The purpose of the book is to show that even though the present backward trend of biblical criticism marks a real gain to conservatism, it not only does not establish, it antagonizes, even more than preceding teachings, the popular evangelical conceptions of Jesus. Grant that the gospels are more nearly exact than we had supposed in their portraiture of the man of Nazareth; so much the worse for the claim that he was infallibly correct in his views, for the unanswerable testimony of history has shown him to be in error in more than one of his alleged teachings. Either he was mistaken or the gospel reports are in error. To authenticate the latter is to establish the fallibility of the former. The book is reverent in tone, and is written by one whose love for the person of Jesus is profound.

WILLIAM I. LAWRENCE.

Maternal Impressions.†

The earnestness of the author in making public what he considers an original discovery of practical importance, renders the criticism of C. J. Bayer's "Maternal Impressions" a difficult task. The book is worth reading and should do good. The author holds the mother responsible, not only for many physical defects but also for many mental and moral peculiarities of her offspring. He claims that she may, to a large degree at least, produce at will happily or illy endowed children. What the mother says, thinks, and does before the birth of the child influences its character. If this claim is true it is plain that the mother ought to think, speak, and act rightly at that period. Mr. Bayer cites a number of curious cases in support of his belief, and studies congenital deaf-mutism, blindness, the tramp problem, and crime as connected with his theory. Mr. Bayer asks criticism, welcomes it, if thereby truer views, helpful to human progress can be reached. The book would have been much improved by the omission of the whole first part, in which a general onslaught is made against the words *heredity* and *atavism*. These he considers coined merely to cover ignorance. It is not worth while criticizing this discussion in detail for he leaves the whole subject more confused than he finds it. For example, he plainly misunderstands the purport of a "law" in science. Few, if any, laws of science claim to explain causes. They simply state facts. Heredity as a law merely asserts that *like begets like*. This aphorism is a favorite one with our author, who nevertheless dislikes heredity. If Mr. Bayer has a fact of real importance in *maternal impression* and the cause for child character, he can well afford to leave heredity and atavism to adjust themselves to it. As it is, his discussion of those two topics is so lacking in coherence and force that it weakens rather than strengthens a truly interesting and suggestive book.

FREDERICK STARR.

*THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEACHING OF JESUS.—By R. A. Armstrong, B. A., London; Philip Green, 5 Essex St., Strand, W. C. 1897. Pp. 50. Price one shilling net.

†MATERNAL IMPRESSIONS: a study in child-life. C. J. Bayer, Winona, Minn., 1897. Jones & Kroeger. 16mo. pp. 253. \$1.00.

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The Liberal Field.

*"The World is my Country; To do
good is my Religion."*

NEW YORK CITY. The Unitarians of the Middle States have had a great conference here. They seem to have dealt in live questions and to have developed a variety of opinions as to methods as well as matter. The Unitarians in other conventions have always been fertile in discussion of principles, but have always been shy about discussing policies. They have been loath to admit that the accepted way is not the best. In the installment of Rev. T. R. Slicer in the pulpit once occupied by Dr. Bellows there is an event of national significance. Mr. Slicer is called to a great field if the field is not already preempted by other liberal men and leaders of thought who are perpetuating the spirit of Dr. Bellows outside of or independent of the Unitarian label. We congratulate Mr. Slicer on his great opportunity, also All Souls' parish on being once more in line under such a valiant and tried leader.

CINCINNATI. The fellowship of religions had an illustration in Cincinnati on Thanksgiving Day, when two Unitarian churches joined in a religious service

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with the two principal Jewish congregations, the large congregation which assembled in the Mound Street Jewish Temple being made up of representatives of all four churches. Rev. George A. Thayer of the First Congregational Church preached the sermon and the other services were conducted by Rev. George R. Gebauer of Unity Church, Rev. Charles Levi of the Plum Street Temple, and Rev. David Philipson, the Mound Street Rabbi, at whose suggestion the highly satisfactory union was initiated.

WESTERN UNITARIAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL SOCIETY. The six months ending November 1st brought \$24.00 in annual membership contributions, \$10.00 as a donation from Mrs. C. S. Kleinstueck of Kalamazoo, and donations from four Sunday-schools: Baraboo, Wis., \$3.00; Lawrence Kas., \$2.00; Luverne, Minn., \$3.00; Quincy, Ill., \$20.00.

The new series of lessons on "Every Day Religion," prepared by Rev. C. J. Bartlett-Crane and published in monthly leaflets by the society, are attracting considerable attention, though not half as much as they deserve. Mrs. Crane is putting a great deal of suggestive thought into this "study of sociology at first hand," but it will be some time before the sales of the leaflets will bring any considerable returns. Mr. Gould's clever series on "Mother Nature's Helpers" (of which the eighth leaflet is now ready) is also a costly bit of pioneer work, and the believers in such helpful publications are invited to show their appreciation by an early contribution toward the running expenses of the society.

JACKSON, MICH.—Rev. F. V. Hawley, who has left the People's Church, at

Brooklyn, Mich., to take charge of the Unitarian Society at this place, recently, at a meeting of the Unitarian Club, said: "It is in applied religion that I am most deeply interested, viz.: a philosophy working itself out into deeds," and more in the same effective line.

Books Received.

THE AGE OF TENNYSON.—By Hugh Walker, M. A. George Bell & Sons, London; 90 cents.

HER PLACE IN THE WORLD.—By Amanda Douglas. Lee & Shepard. \$1.50.

THE BLUE AND THE GRAY SERIES. AT THE FRONT.—By Oliver Optic. Lee & Shepard. \$1.50.

THE HAPPY SIX.—By Penn Shirley. Lee & Shepard. \$0.75.

AN OREGON BOYHOOD.—By Louis Albert Banks. Lee & Shepard. \$1.25.

PACIFIC SHORES; OR, ADVENTURES IN EASTERN SEAS.—By Oliver Optic. Lee & Shepard. \$1.25.

THE DISTRICT SCHOOL AS IT WAS.—By one who went to it. Edited by Clifton Johnson. Lee & Shepard. \$1.25.

Love of Stimulants.

A Habit that Seems to Have Fastened Itself on the American People.

"Physicians look upon tea and coffee as a habit," said Dr. Jacques Loeb, in a recent interview on tea and coffee drinking, "and they regard the taste for black coffee as an indication of a love of some kind of stimulant, and the black coffee drinkers recognize in the beverage, stimulating qualities over and above diluted coffee or tea. And further that the black coffee drinker is a drunkard, just as much as the man who drinks whisky. He becomes, in time, just as much a slave to the practice."

Tea and coffee drinking is a vice that seems to have fastened itself on the American people, and is turning out a great army of dyspeptics every year. People who are suffering from headaches, nervousness and dyspepsia, find profound relief in ten days or two weeks after they leave off tea and coffee and use Postum Cereal Food Coffee. This health beverage is made of nature's grains, and is the food coffee having the indorsement of the medical profession, Ralston Health Clubs, Hygienic, and other teachers and food experts. Grocers sell it. A 25c package makes 100 cups of the rich beverage.

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THE LIBERAL CONGRESS OF RELIGION.

The undersigned takes pleasure in presenting the following exhibit of the financial affairs of the Liberal Congress for the first half of the fourth year. It is a source of congratulation to all interested that in spite of the money stringency, we have been able to bring the Nashville meeting to such a successful issue with all the bills paid, and a small balance on hand. The treasurer takes this opportunity of thanking all those who have contributed, and of reminding those who contributed as annual members or otherwise to the support of the congress during the previous years of its life, and have not been able yet to renew, that the current fiscal year ends June 1, 1898, and he hopes that all of them will be able to renew their subscription before that time. He solicits the co-operation of old and new subscribers in further extending the influence and efficiency of the congress by increasing its funds. The success of the congress thus far doubtless lies largely in the fact that we have been able to secure such strong men to voice its message. The officers are planning to make the Omaha meeting next autumn the greatest of them all, and the treasurer appeals to old and new friends for the necessary funds to justify the labor and adequately carry out the work of the other officers.

Respectfully submitted.

LEO FOX, Treasurer.

Chicago, Dec. 1. 1897.

First Semi-Annual Financial Statement for the Fourth Year of the Liberal Congress of Religion.

FROM JUNE 1, 1897, TO DECEMBER 1, 1897.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand June 1, 1897-----\$ 7 88

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS:

J. S. Grindley, Thomasboro, Ill.	\$25 00
Dr. Cyrus Bartol, Boston.	50 00
Evan Lloyd, Chicago.	25 00
H. H. Kohlsaat, Chicago.	25 00
Dr. H. W. Thomas, Chicago.	25 00
Rev. Benjamin Fay Mills, Cambridge, Mass.	25 00
"Illinois Granger"	25 00
B. Schlesinger, Brookline, Mass.	25 00

225 00

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS:

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Miss Juniata Stafford, Chicago (per New Unity).	3 00
Rev. A. J. Messing, Chicago (per New Unity).	3 00
Rev. W. C. Gannett, Rochester, N. Y.	5 00
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Miss Addie Benneson, Chicago.	5 00
Mrs. Archibald MacArthur, Riverside, Ill.	5 00
Mrs. Caroline Bartlett Crane, Kalamazoo, Mich.	10 00
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Mrs. C. G. Kleinstuck, Kalamazoo, Mich.	5 00
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		563 56
Total Receipts		\$1,159 44

EXPENSES.

Office supplies.....	\$ 4 70
Letter heads.....	10 50
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Telegrams.....	3 40
Expressing.....	3 05
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Expenses of Secretary to Nashville in March, June, and October, arranging Nashville meeting.....	57 00
Expenses Benjamin Fay Mills—Nashville meeting.....	65 00
Expenses Washington Gladden—Nashville meeting.....	13 95
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Dr. Lewinthal, for local expenses—Nashville.....	8 85
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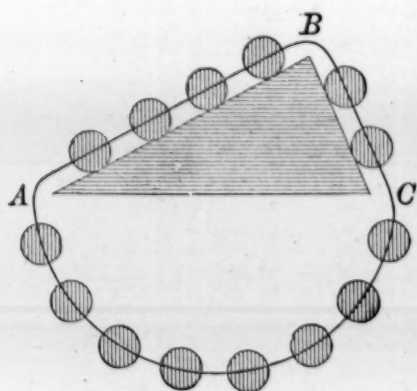
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